



**North Loop Neighborhood Association
January Board Meeting
Date: 01/18/2023
Time 7:00pm**

1. **6 of 11 Board Members in attendance:** Diane Merrifield, Pat Dawson, Sarah Traczyk, Scott Woller, David Kisan
 - a. **Board members absent:** David Crary, Ericka Jones, Sina Pleggenkuhle, Mollie Scozzari, Jo Hamburge
 - b. **Guests:** Jo Vos
2. Meeting is called to order by Merrifield at 7:00 pm.
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA and APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 30, 2022 MINUTES
4. Neighborhood Engagement (North Loop Neighbors & Guests)
 - a. The board acknowledged that they did not have a quorum to approve the agenda and minutes of the last meeting.
 - b. The board noted that CM Rainville, his aides, nor CM Ellison were present.
 - c. The group discussed collecting information about individuals and businesses interested in sponsoring and advertising at future events.
 1. They discussed the logistics of collecting this information and how it could be used in the future.
 - d. The group talked about the potential to save time and resources by having individuals fill out information during the annual meeting.
5. Finance Report (Lancaster) – not present
 - a. The board discussed the finance report balance sheet but noted that Treasurer Margee Lancaster was not present with a report.
6. SECRETARY REPORT (Hamburge) – not present

7. BOARD REPORTS

a. Neighborhood Engagement (Community, Civic, Business)

1. Annual Meeting (January 25) – Woller

- i. The board discussed logistics for the upcoming event, including the number of tables, attendees, and swag bags. The importance of filling out the form for invoicing and headcount was emphasized.
- ii. Importance of having a physical ask for donations at the registration table.
- iii. Potential for collecting business information at the meeting to use for future sponsorship and advertising opportunities.
- iv. Approval of agenda and minutes from last year's annual meeting.
- v. Four presentations with main presentation via video – all by Mike Binkley.
 1. Accomplishments
 2. Why volunteer
 3. Board members
 4. Candidates
- vi. Opportunity for attendees to ask questions to presenters.
- vii. Two rounds of giveaways with donated gift cards and products.
- viii. Phone-based survey for community involvement will focus on specific volunteer opportunities after the election.
- ix. The meeting should last about 65 minutes if efficient with prize giveaways.

2. zAmya/Avivo Recap – Merrifield

- i. Equitable Engagement Fund, which among other funding support, has provided \$20,000 for Avivo residents to work with us to help maintain neighborhood trash pickup, weed and graffiti removal.
- ii. Avivo is managing gift cards to those participating in clean-up activities – NLNA is not handling the funds. David Crary is coordinating. David also plans to get T-shirts and identification for those participating in the program.
- iii. There was a discussion about ensuring garbage is properly disposed of and not left overflowing, leading to more litter. The challenge is that the responsibility lies with those sponsoring the trash containers.

8. Communications

a. Map/wayfinding brochure/interactive – Woller/Kisan/Traczyk/Merrifield

1. Possibility of sponsors and how the brochure could be used to generate revenue in future versions.
2. Distribution of maps and possibly using a spreadsheet to keep track of where they have been placed.
3. The idea of using a Google form and QR code to streamline the process was suggested.
4. It was agreed that only businesses in the neighborhood should receive brochures.
5. The cost for distribution was discussed, with the proposal to charge \$200 for every thousand brochures.
6. The importance of ensuring that the brochures are not wasted or thrown away was emphasized.

- b. January and February newsletters – Dawson
 - 1. The January newsletter was sent out and the February newsletter is planned to be sent out in the first week of March.
 - c. New board member culture onboarding – Woller
 - 1. Working on a North Loop board culture doc for onboarding.
 - i. Follow up with each candidate individually after they are elected.
 - ii. A meeting is suggested to explain the culture and expectations of the board members.
 - iii. Meeting to be held before the first board meeting.
- 9. Planning+Zoning Committee – Vos
 - a. Neighborhoods will have the opportunity to vote on public art submissions through an online voting process starting in mid-February.
 - 1. The top voted submissions will be chosen as the installations.
 - 2. It was suggested that the board mention the voting process at the annual meeting and spread the word to encourage neighborhood input.
 - 3. A table could potentially be set up for the project at the annual meeting.
 - 4. The neighborhood input process for the public art installation is important to ensure that the installations reflect the community.
 - b. Tequila restaurant application.
 - 1. Josh Thomas is opening a tequila restaurant at 113 North First Street
 - 2. The board voted in favor of tearing down a structure on the back of the building that was built after the historic building – new structure will be built in its place with a patio bar on top, though this is not part of the HPC application.
 - 3. The board will draft a letter of support for the application.
 - 4. Could help revitalize a previously neglected area of the city and provide a new dining option.
 - c. Nolo bar rooftop application
 - 1. The application for the rooftop bar on the Nolo building will be discussed at the February meeting.
 - 2. Expressed concerns about the potential for late-night crowds and violence at Basement Bar.
- 10. NuLoop Partners – Traczyk
 - a. There was a meeting about NuLoop Partners, but half of it was spent on the Blue Line LRT. Will give an update at the March meeting.
- 11. Safety+Livability – Jones/Dawson
 - a. Washington Avenue Pedestrian Safety – Merrifield
 - 1. Plans underway for improvements to pedestrian crossings at 7th and 8th and Washington.
 - 2. The board discusses safety concerns related to the Basement Bar.
 - i. The bar owner has proposed creating a business association to raise funds for police presence to deal with crowds.
 - ii. Board members expressed concern about the type of crowd the bar attracts and the potential for over-serving, intoxication and challenging late night crowds.
 - iii. There have been issues with shooting/violence and board wants to address safety/security concerns with the owner.

- iv. The owner has begun ‘wandering’ patrons for guns and is considering imposing a dress code.
 - v. The board wants to discuss safety in a constructive way when the owner of the bar is present.
 - 3. There is a brief discussion about safety and serving responsibilities at other establishments.
- b. DMNA/DEI Training Next Steps – Jones
 - 1. Talked about the DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) training. Board members appreciated the training and follow-up discussion.
- c. Database Project Update – Dawson
 - 1. Board discussed the dynamic business directory that’s been created with 320 verified businesses. Discussion re updating the directory and feeding the information into the database.
- d. Committee Updates, Priorities, Next Steps
 - 1. The committee will provide a slate of candidates for the board to approve in March.
 - i. If there are not enough viable candidates, the committee may operate with less than 15 members.

12. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2023 Board Planning Session – February TBD
 - a. The date of the next board meeting will be on March 1st, due to Ash Wednesday being on the last Wednesday of the month.

13. ADJOURN Merrifield **makes a motion to Adjourn**, Dawson **seconds the motion**. **The board adjourns at 8:30 pm.**